To The HARTLEY WINTNEY

Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ending the 31st December, 1896.

GENTLEMEN,

My Report will be a short but highly satisfactory one.

With the exception of mild outbreaks of Scarlet Fever, Measles, and Whooping Cough, there is little to report. For these the following Schools were, after due consideration, closed, viz.:—Farnboro' Street School, February 4th to March 2nd, for Scarlet Fever; Crookham, December 18th to January 25th, for Measles and Whooping Cough; Ewshot Infants' School, December 16th to January 11th, for Measles and Whooping Cough.

In the event of serious attacks of Infectious Diseases it will be necessary to have means of isolation. I still advise you to join with neighbouring authorities in this matter, the Union House being arranged for independently. I am convinced the people of this district would not consent to removal to a Union Isolation Place.

In order to meet the views of the Thames Conservancy Board, Mr. Sisterson has carried out, by your instructions, a Sewer Extension at Odiham, including Settling Tanks and Filtering Beds.

Although the death rate is low I cannot hide from you the fact that the drains, sewers, and water supply in the several villages are in an unsatisfactory condition. I advise you to carry out with as little delay as possible, the sewerage of Hartley Row and Blackwater.

The gipsies camping on Yatcley Common are increasing in number, and rapidly becoming a serious nuisance, injurious to the public health.

In the Parishes of Cove, Hawley, Fleet, and Crookham there is a good deal of building going on, and it will soon be desirable to apply for extra powers, same as you obtained for Farnborough some 12 or 15 years ago.

FARNBOROUGH.—The death rate for this Parish for the months of January and February was 20·1 per thousand, per annum. At this period Farnborough was constituted an independent Urban District, and I ceased to act as Medical Officer of Health.

The death rate for the District (not including Farnborough) corrected to population is 13·4 per thousand, per annum, and the Infant mortality under one year, 3·0 per thousand per annum.

The following is a Summary of the work done by the Sanitary Inspectors, including Farnborough for the first two months of the year 1896.

Overcrowding abated	8
Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases	36
Houses renovated and whitewashed..	17
Privies cleaned out, repaired or re-built	41
New Drains to Sinks	20
Foul Ditches cleaned out	26
Nuisances abated..	42
New Cesspits	9
New Wells..	8
Dilapidated Houses renovated	10
Filthy Cesspits cleaned out	30
Old Wells cleaned out	8
New Houses built with proper supply of water	50
Dairies and Cow Stalls inspected twice during the year	52
Odiham Sewage Extension, with Settling Tanks and Filtering Beds constructed. Ditches cleaned out and pipes laid.	

The latter, with the greater part of the work done, was carried out by your Chief Inspector, Mr. Sisterson owing to the illness and death of Sanitary Inspector Whitehorn.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. J. DENNY,

Medical Officer of Health.